

NEGRO EDITOR

Tells Why He Is Against Taft.

Brownsville Question Has Provoked The Black.

"Lincoln Dead, Negro Has Right To Ideas On Tariff."

DISFRANCHISEMENT IS ALL O. K.

In a communication printed on the editorial page of The Observer, Geo. C. Clement, editor of The Star of Zion, of Charlotte, N. C., explains why in his opinion, the blacks are opposed to Taft as President. His letter follows:

"There are doubtless many who wonder why the dishonorable discharge of the three companies of negro soldiers so universally and bitterly affronted our people. The answer is easy. The record of the black soldiers in a hundred Indian battles on Western fields, at San Juan and La Quasima and in the Philippines, was the one green spot, the one priceless oasis in all the desert of recent race conditions which touched, most intensely the patriotism of the negro.

"To have this record shattered by one blow without due process of law, and to have our honored soldiers disgraced before their alleged crime was proven, was more than we could stand. It pricked us to the quick, and we will be a long time recovering from the shock.

"The negroes were not prepared for the absolute disregard of the rules of evidence, and the bias which condemned, at least, one hundred and fifty innocent men, with a few (not more than a dozen, possibly) guilty.

"We know that Mr. Roosevelt, having once taken a position, however impulsive and arbitrary, would not retreat. He does not acknowledge wrong however culpable his action in the light of subsequent developments. That the parties here concerned were negroes is immaterial in this respect. When Archbishop Ireland, one of the greatest Americans, plainly contradicted our honorable President and proved him mistaken, there was no retraction; hence, we expected nothing favorable from Mr. Roosevelt, although his attitude was unreasonable and unfair toward a great majority of the dismissed soldiers.

"But we were shocked when he classed them all with the arch assassins, Gleau and Czolgosz, and declared that even if Congress voted their reinstatement he would refuse to order it. That settled it, so far as Mr. Roosevelt and the negroes were concerned.

"It was then that an exasperated and insulted race, through accredited leadership, asked Mr. Taft if he were made President would he be willing to reinstate the discharged soldiers in accordance with congressional findings and recommendation? Thus far he has refused to answer. Then, this same race leadership turned to Mr. Bryan with the same question and his reported answer is that he would carry out the law and do his duty as President or else resign.

"There is yet a deeper and more widespread resentment against Mr. Taft, which makes it impossible for self-respecting negroes to vote for him. This is his position in reference to the disfranchisement of the black voter, as he expressed it at Greensboro, N. C., several months ago.

"Mr. Taft plainly condoned the action of the Southern States in the presence of a 'lily-white' Republican audience. We shall not enter into the merits of the disfranchising laws, with their grandfather clauses, etc., but we shall attempt to state why we repudiate Mr. Taft's candidacy upon the grounds above mentioned.

"Be it remembered that the hasty enfranchisement of the negro was used to serve partisan Republican interests. It was a political act by an all-powerful political organization for partisan interests, primarily, and the interest of the negro, secondarily.

"Be it further remembered that what ever value arose from the negro vote accrued to the Republican party and served especially to furnish offices and feather the nest of the Southern white Republican politicians. The very men to whom Mr. Taft was speaking have been the recipients of whatever benefits were obtainable through the negro votes. One prominent gentleman owed his seat in the United States to the negro vote. Others were judges, Congressmen, Governors, members of the State Legislature, etc., by this

gave him a 5000-acre estate as an earnest of greater possessions to come at the donor's death. Then there was the \$500,000 bestowed upon him by Baroness Oppenheim-Cohn, and the \$2,500,000 placed at his disposal by Herr Henckel von Connersmarch in 1905. "To him that hath shall be given."

"With reference to the Kaiser's demand for increased pay, it may be mentioned that King Edward gets \$2,350,000 for his own use, while each member of the British royal family receives various grants which exceed \$500,000 per annum. Besides his official salary, King Edward has a large private purse.

The Kaiser is by no means the best-paid monarch in Europe. The Emperor of Austria out-distances him with his salary of \$4,700,000, which sum is derived from the two portions of his monarchy.

The best-paid monarch in Europe is the Czar of Russia. The State Treasury pays out \$7,500,000 per annum for the needs of the imperial house. In addition, the reigning Empress and Dowager Empress each has an allowance of \$100,000 a year. Each child born to the Czar receives from birth to the age of 21 nearly \$20,000 a year, while the heir to the throne receives, annually, in addition to maintenance of palaces, \$50,000. Daughters receive a dowry of \$500,000 when they marry.

"Finally, why shouldn't the negro vote for Mr. Bryan and why should we be censured for turning toward the Democratic party?

"Mr. Bryan is a Christian gentleman of the highest type; a brave and outspoken statesman, whose integrity has never been questioned.

"The negroes who are now voting are not the ignorant, shiftless sort some may deem them. It should be noted that they are intelligent, and thousands of them educated. They study the self same text-books of political economy they read the same newspapers and magazines, they breathe the same atmosphere and speak the same language. Why, then, should they not entertain the same opinions upon matters political, viz., the tariff, State's rights, government ownership of public utilities, relations of labor and capital, etc., etc.

"Why should the Northern negro American differ in this particular from the Northern Irish-American or German-American.

"Yes, at last, the negro has learned to look out for himself, and in the campaign of 1908 he will be found supporting the man and the party that offer most to him. Who will call him foolish for thus doing, and who can afford to deny him this right? In free America there should not be one."

Gets \$4,500,000 And Wants More.

THE GERMAN EMPEROR SAYS HE CAN'T LIVE ON THIS MEASURABLE SUM.

The German Emperor as King of Prussia, wants his salary raised. At present he receives from the state \$650,000 as German Emperor and \$3,852,770 as King of Prussia. The last increase, which amounted to \$750,000, was made in 1889, in the second year of his reign. In spite of this, however, he is actually getting \$1,250,000 less than the old kings of Prussia annually received.

An income exceeding \$4,500,000 is not a despicable sum even for Kaiser William, but those who know say it is not excessive, considering that there are no allowances to other members of the royal family, and that very little comes from the royal domains.

The Kaiser has several hundred into pretty tall figures. He has complete uniforms of all the Prussian uniforms and his tailor's bill runs regiments—horse, foot and artillery—besides the regiments of the lesser states, and those of which he holds honorary rank in foreign countries. Every appointment is perfect, from the shoulder knots, which cost more than the uniform itself, to jeweled accoutrements fit for an Oriental autocrat.

When he travels it is always in state and ceremony and accompanied by a large retinue. Hence his official revenue is not enough to keep him. In addition to the keep of his 52 castles, palaces and country houses and innumerable farms and forests, he is expected to maintain the royal theatres at Berlin, Hanover and Cassel, and must also foot the bills for the royal concerts.

The Kaiser is very lucky, however, in the way of legacies from wealthy subjects. Only a few years ago Herr Wilhelm Hildebrand left him an estate worth \$375,000 and \$750,000 in hard cash; a gift matched by that of

gave him a 5000-acre estate as an earnest of greater possessions to come at the donor's death. Then there was the \$500,000 bestowed upon him by Baroness Oppenheim-Cohn, and the \$2,500,000 placed at his disposal by Herr Henckel von Connersmarch in 1905. "To him that hath shall be given."

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CITY COUNCIL

Met Monday Evening And Much Business Disposed Of.

For the first time in several weeks the City Council met Monday evening at their chamber in the City Hall building, and disposed of much business which had accumulated in the office of the city clerk. Clerk Wm. S. Polsgrove called the roll and the following members answered present: Councilmen Bridgford, Congleton, Demaree, Hardie, Kenney, Rossen and Simpson.

The Building Committee examined and reported favorably on petitions as follows:

Dr. C. A. Fish—Two-story frame on his lot on East Main street.

Mrs. A. B. Foley—Eight-room concrete house on Holmes street.

John T. Buckley—To improve his storeroom on St. Clair street, occupied by George H. Stehlin, raising the room a story and putting in a new front.

A. W. Overton, Agent—Improving the storeroom occupied by Crutcher & Simpson. A new and modern front will be installed.

Indian Refining Company—A two-compartment oil storage tank on E. M. Wallace's property at the end of Barret avenue.

A petition of Tom Griffie for a license for a saloon in the property owned by Mary Jane Kirk at the southwest corner of Canton and Washington streets was referred to the License Committee, when Chairman Simpson raised the point that if that license was granted there would be three saloons on that corner.

A petition from Mrs. Cordelia Kendall asking that her taxes be decreased from \$6,000 to \$4,000 was referred to the Finance Committee.

Reports from the city officials were read and approved. City Clerk Polsgrove's report showed a balance of \$1,734.38 in the city treasury at the close of business June 30, 1908. City Marshal Lillis' report showed \$159.10 collected through the Police Court during the month. The report of Judge Herndon showed that there had been 67 cases tried during that length of time.

City Engineer Frazier sent in a written report to the Council, making some pertinent suggestions about improvement of the sewer drainage system of the city.

Mr. Frazier also called attention to several brick streets which need repairing and he was directed to have it done.

The Mayor's veto of the lunch stand resolution was brought up, the City Attorney's opinion read, and the Mayor's veto sustained.

Upon motion of Councilman Simpson an extension of time until Jan. 1, 1909, was given the People's Electric Light Company in which to begin work on their proposed plant in this city.

Chairman Simpson, of the Finance Committee, said that information was desired as to what valuation must be attached to the electric light franchise of the Capital Gas and Electric Light Company. He pointed out that the courts had held the gas franchise exempt, but the electric light franchise taxable. The question was referred to the Finance and Gas Committee and the City Attorney.

Mr. Simpson also brought up the question of what city official is empowered to act to collect the licenses.

It developed that no one had especial power to do so. After some discussion the City Clerk was directed to employ a license collector, to be paid five per cent. of licenses which he collects.

The Workhouse Committee was directed to have a new roof placed upon the workhouse, and upon motion of Mr. Congleton the Council voted to pay for the city's half of the fence around the new property purchased at the pest house. Before the session adjourned the Fire Committee was directed to purchase 200 feet of additional hose for the reel in Belle Point.

An ordinance was introduced from the Ordinance Committee and given its first passage, providing a penalty of a fine of from \$10 to \$100 for running an automobile within the city limits faster than six miles an hour. Mr. Congleton explained that this was designed to catch those automobiles of Lexington and Louisville who through the city at a frightful oftentimes drinking, and frightening pedestrians and horses half to death.

An ordinance providing for the extension of the East Main street sewer up the hill past the Feeble Minded Institute was also given its first reading.

The ordinance fixing the circus and parade license at \$125 was finally passed. A penalty of \$100 to \$200 fine is imposed for violation. Final passage was also given to the ordinance fixing a license of \$10 for travelers other than regular merchants who sell goods, &c., in the city.

Two ordinances providing for macadamizing Fourth street from Murray to Logan and Logan from Third to Fourth were referred to the Ordinance Committee for investigation.

The Council ordered a bill paid for improvements in the interior of the fire department (and also that the outside be painted).

After allowing the accounts and adopting a motion by Dr. Demaree that during the rest of the summer the sessions begin at seven o'clock, and that an electric fan be provided for the Council Chamber, the Council adjourned for the evening.

Chesapeake & Ohio R. Schedule in effect June 28, 1908, subject to change without notice.

Limited for Louisville, Nashville, Memphis, West and Southwest. 9:40 A. M. and 6:15 P. M. Daily Limited.

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